

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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Published by the Commission on Public Relations

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CABLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4 - CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 102

April 15, 1957

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NEW PRESIDENT OF MEIJI GAKUIN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Senji Tsuru, former president of Ferris Seminary in Yokohama, has been elected president of Meiji Gakuin University. After graduation from the Theological Department of Meiji Gakuin, he studied at Oberlin Theological Seminary in Ohio, U.S.A. and at Edinburgh, Scotland where he secured his Ph. D. Before going to Ferris Seminary Dr. Tsuru held positions in the High School, Junior High School, and Seminary and was a member of the Bible Revision Committee of the Japan Bible Society. He is a well-known authority on the Old Testament, having written such books as "Preface to the Old Testament," "The Pentateuch", "Wit Literature in the Old Testament". He is an uncle of Dr. Shigeto Tsuru of Hitotsubashi Commercial University.

NCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

At the regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Christian Council, which was held at the Ginza Church on April 9, General Secretary Hirai reported on the meeting of Asiatic Christian leaders at Prapat, the Madras consultation on Christian study centers for the study of indigenous religions and culture, and the Asian Council on Ecumenical Mission. The latter organization is being dissolved and its functions transferred to a new organization with headquarters in Singapore which will be related to the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council. Plans for sending delegates to the quadrennial meeting of the IMC at Gold Coast University in Africa were discussed.

STANLEY JONES EVANGELISM TOUR

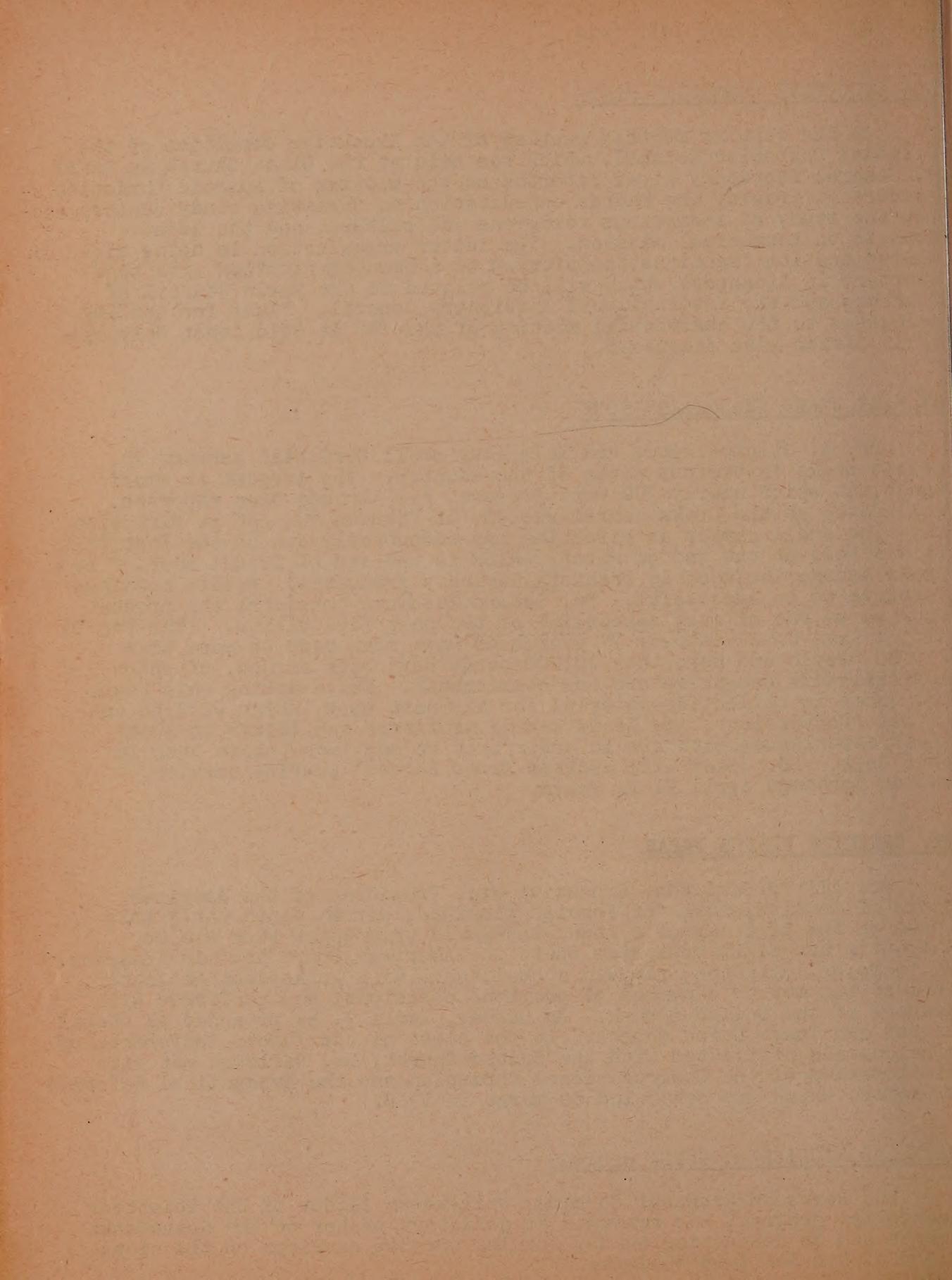
Dr. E. Stanley Jones has held four small Christian ashrams in recent weeks in various parts of the country. The largest at Amagi Sanso, at which nearly 200 were present, has already been reported. Attendance at the Osaka ashram was 80, at Fukuoka 60, and at Hiroshima 44. The small number at Hiroshima was undoubtedly due to the fact that it was held at the end of March, which is the end of fiscal year. The Osaka ashram included 16 Doshisha Seminary graduates. Public meetings continue to be successful. Dr. Saburo Yasumura considers the present tour to be one of most successful of the past five visits. Thus far 25 cities have been visited; 77 addresses have been made to more than 23,000 people and more than 10,000 cards have been signed, of which approximately one-third are new commitments. While making this tour, Dr. Jones is collecting material for his next book, which will be entitled "Conversion", and he is asking ministers and laymen to share their experiences with him in order that he may incorporate them in this book. Dr. Jones will address Armed Forces' Sunrise Service, Easter Morning, April 21 in Tokyo.

DR. CARLETON VISITS JAPAN

Dr. Alfred Carleton, Executive Vice President of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, was in Japan early this month on the last lap of a round-the-world trip which took him to Indonesia and eight countries where the American Board has missionaries. In Tokyo Dr. Carleton, renewed acquaintance with Ambassador MacArthur, whom he has met on a number of previous occasions, and conferred with leaders of the United Church. On Sunday, April 7, he preached at Chapel Center and Tokyo Union Church. At the close of the Yumoto Conference of missionaries affiliated with the United Church, Dr. Carleton met with missionaries of the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical Reformed churches, which are scheduled to merge in 1958.

REVEREND RYUKICHI YOSHIDA RESIGNS

The Reverend Ryukichi Yoshida, well-known leader of the Volunteer Evangelism program, has resigned as assistant pastor of the Reinanzaka Church and is conducting Sunday morning worship services on the ninth floor of Kyo Bun Kwan building.



MISSIONARIES MEET AT YUMOTO

The Annual Conference of missionaries cooperating with the United Church of Christ in Japan, which recently met April 2-5 at Yumoto, Hakone, was unusually fortunate in the large number of special guest speakers present. Dr. Gloria Harkness, who is now at International Christian University, addressed the conference on "Why we are Here," "What is the Church?" and "What can we do for the World." Dr. Marshall Scott, dean of the Presbyterian Institute of Industrial Relations, spoke on industrial evangelism. Dr. John Bieglesien of Eden Theological Seminary gave two addresses on the Old and New Testaments. Dr. Neal MacFarland, professor of Perkins Theological Seminary (Southern Methodist University) presented the situation in the religious world of Japan today. And Dr. Alford Carleton, Executive Vice President of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions gave an incisive analysis of the current situation in the Near East. Among the twelve discussion groups, which featured the daily program, the one dealing with the indigenous cultures was of outstanding interest. The Christian missionary is becoming increasingly conscious of the **necessity** learning more about the religious faith of the people he serves and is eager to find points of contact which will increase interest in his message. Three hundred and twelve missionaries, representing ten occidental denominations were present. The Reverend John Hesselink of Fukuoka was elected chairman of the 1958 conference.

CHRISTIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Research Institute on the mission of the United Church is an ambitious project to examine the entire mission of the United Church by means a thoroughgoing program of continuing research covering the following subjects: (1) "Mission and Theology" - the establishment of the church, its relationship to protestant denominations, its position as a church in modern society, faith and order, evangelism, sermons, training for church life. (2) "Method and Mission" - special characteristics of the Japanese people, church membership, church influence in foreign countries, thought changes, church organizations, new religions, evangelistic methods, sermons. (3) "The Church and Education" - internal and external problems. (4) "Church and Society" - Christian industry, land reform, medium and small enterprises. (These studies were requested by the World Council of Churches.) (5) "Church and International Problems" - racial issues, communism, ecumehicity.

UNITED CHURCH HOKKAIDO RELIEF

A total of ¥2,226,000 was raised for Hokkaido relief this winter by the United Church. This was more than double the goal set at the beginning of the campaign. One twenty-year old student of Tokyo University was so discouraged at the small amount contributed by his church that he secured permission to solicit funds on the street and organized about one hundred youths for this purpose. Their goal was ¥100,000 but the actual amount raised was ¥331,950. Mr. Wakabayashi, this student, is to be baptized this Easter Sunday.

WOMEN'S EVANGELISTIC MEETING

On April 27, Dr. Stanley Jones will speak at a women's meeting at the Joshi Gakuin Auditorium which is being sponsored by the Women's Department of the National Christian Council, the Christian Childhood Education League, and the Women's Committee of Tokyo District of the Union Church.

Dr. and Mrs. Darley Downs departed from Yokohama on April 11th for a year's furlough in the U.S.A.
